

Application No. 10/721,778

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, and 14-15 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 5 is canceled and claim 1 is amended.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because they did not show an axle. Applicant has amended claim 1 to remove the feature of an axle from the claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 5 because the term "a rotational axis of the seat reclining mechanism" should have read "the rotational axis of the seat back." Applicant has canceled claim 5. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,427,280 to Gahm. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 5, which, according to the Office Action, contained allowable subject matter. Claims 4, 6, and 14-15 are dependent on amended claim 1. Claim 5 is canceled. Accordingly, claims 4, 6, and 14-15 are believed to be patentable.

Application No. 10/721,778

35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Gahm in view of U.S. Patent No. 5, 466,047 to Bauer et al. As indicated above, Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1, which has been amended to specifically incorporate allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 4 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claim 5 and claim 5 was cancelled. The Examiner indicated claims 14 and 15 are allowed. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Application No. 10/721,778

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas J. Christensen  
Registration No. 35,480

Customer No. 24113  
Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.  
4800 IDS Center  
80 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100  
Telephone: (612) 349-3001